

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth  
Office of Assistance Ministry  
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review  
Safe Environments Office



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## Memorandum

To: File-PFR-190

From: Patricia Zacharias, Assistant Director (AD), Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review PZ

Date: October 5, 2007

Re: McGuire, Fr. Donald (Jesuit) – unidentified "John Doe"

AD received a phone call this afternoon from a man who identified himself and sounded very upset. He said the phone call was very difficult for him to make but he was making it because he needed help.

AD said she would try to help in any way she could and inquired as to why he was calling.

He said that he was calling because Fr. Donald McGuire had sexually abused his son over 15 years ago. He said he had addressed this matter with the Jesuit congregation approximately 15 years ago and had reached an agreement with them that the congregation breached.

He gave AD some background on the abuse of his 15-year-old son. He said Fr. McGuire had invited his son to travel around the world with him. Mr. Doe and his wife agreed to the travel after contacting three different provinces of the congregation and being told that Fr. McGuire was o.k. and had no history of abuse.

Mr. Doe said that his son traveled with Fr. McGuire over a 1.5-year period for about 9 months. He said his son was being home-schooled during this time period.

After he and his wife discovered their son was being abused, they went to the congregation. He described reaching a settlement with the congregation, which included his giving them names of others who may have been victimized by Fr. McGuire. He said the congregation agreed to get in touch with those he and his

family named and that they would offer pastoral support to those who were also victimized. He said they never contacted any of those whose names he gave.

Mr. Doe said that he and his family were assured there had been no other complaints prior to theirs regarding Fr. McGuire and he now believes that was not true.

He said at the time of his son's allegation in 1993, there was a board made up of two attorneys, four priests, two psychologists and one principal. They determined that Fr. McGuire was "deranged", need psychiatric help and should not be in ministry.

Mr. Doe said he has now come to learn that Fr. McGuire was placed back in ministry and had sexually abused others after having sexually abused his son and going through the congregations process for addressing the abuse.

AD inquired as to how his son is doing now. Mr. Doe described him as stable, married with two beautiful children. He said his son was private during the investigation of the abuse and that the investigators never asked the "tough" questions. He believes his son never told anyone the details of being abused.

Mr. Doe described that he has documents from the congregation, which verify what he is saying, and he now has an attorney who has come to him and wants to represent he, his family and his son. He said he has tried to communicate with the congregation recently to mediate the situation and they are not responding to him as he believes they are "over their heads" regarding this matter.

AD attempted to explain to Mr. Doe her process for documenting the information he was giving her, contacting the congregation and forwarding this information to them. Mr. Doe became more upset and said he did not want to be identified on any documentation and he did not want to Fr. Jim Gschwend to be informed of the information he had given to AD. He said he considers Fr. Gschwend and others he has dealt with within the Chicago provinces to be uncaring and unresponsive as well as part of the problem itself by their lying to him.

When AD asked whom Mr. Doe has communicated with at the congregation, Mr. Doe said he has communicated with the current provincial of the Chicago province whose name he cannot remember, Fr. Gschwend, Fr. Francis Daly and Fr. Bradley Schaeffer. He said he has never spoken with anyone other than those within the Chicago province.

AD explained that because the Archdiocese is a separate entity from the congregation, the Archdiocese does not have the authority to interfere with the congregation's processes for handling such cases. She said she could consult with internal offices at the Archdiocese as well as her Director regarding this matter, however it was not likely that she would be able to offer more than the process she just described. Mr. Doe responded that what he heard AD telling

him was that although she was concerned about this matter, the church still did not care and she was telling him to go ahead and file a lawsuit with the attorney who came to his house.

AD clarified that she could not advise him to file or not to file a lawsuit-that that was always his choice to make. She said she was not saying that the church did not care, that what she was saying was the most she could offer beyond the process she previously described to him was to consult with others within the Archdiocese. She then asked Mr. Doe how he was hoping she could help him.

He replied by describing many aspects of changing how the congregation handles matters such as his. He then asked for her email address and sent her an email outlining his request, which he had previously sent to the congregation.

After sending the email, he told AD he did not want his name documented and he wanted to be referred to in her documentation as John Doe. AD then explained his name was on the email he sent to her which would become part of her documentation. He asked that it not be used, so AD told him it was being deleted and she deleted it.

He then said he and his family now want several things from the congregation: an apology, a fair settlement and for the congregation to support other children and families who have been hurt by Fr. McGuire. He would like this to be facilitated face to face with the congregation in a mediation process. He would like the congregation's process of "reporting, response, prevention and supervision" to be analyzed and improved. He would like an "effective arena to deal with this independent of the violators."

He said, "this is worse then Boston".

He described now getting calls from other families who knew of his case regarding their children also being abused. He said he is also angry because the congregation never came to California to see his family-that they have never seen his son. He described his wife breaking down last Friday in tears over this matter.

AD said she would document his information and consult internally within the Archdiocese. He gave AD his phone number and asked she not leave a detailed message when calling him. He again reiterated that he does not want to be identified in writing or to the congregation. AD said she would get back to him the following week.